



Investing in rural people



**PROCEEDINGS**  
THIRD GLOBAL  
MEETING OF THE  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' FORUM  
AT IFAD

10 and 13 February 2017





## **PROCEEDINGS**

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**THEME: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITH A FOCUS ON  
WOMEN AND YOUTH**

# BACKGROUND

## **About the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD**

Indigenous peoples around the world have repeatedly asked for a more systematic dialogue with United Nations agencies. In response, IFAD has taken a series of initiatives and developed key instruments to actively engage with them. These include the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, approved by the Executive Board of IFAD in 2009.

As a key instrument to implement the IFAD policy, the Indigenous Peoples' Forum was established at IFAD in 2011 as a permanent process of consultation and dialogue between representatives from indigenous peoples' institutions and organizations, IFAD and governments. The Forum enables participants to assess IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples, consult on rural development and poverty reduction and promote the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in IFAD's activities at the country, regional and international levels. Overall, these activities help IFAD to implement its policy and translate its principles into action on the ground.

The global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum convenes every other year in conjunction with IFAD's Governing Council, IFAD's main decision-making body. In preparation for each global meeting, regional consultation workshops are organized to ensure that the Forum reflects the diversity of perspectives and recommendations gathered from indigenous peoples in the various regions where IFAD operates.

The overall process is guided by a steering committee composed of seven representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from the different regions and a representative, respectively, from the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and IFAD.

A unique process within the UN system, the Forum institutionalizes IFAD's consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives at all levels and provides an opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD to further strengthen their collaboration for rural transformation.

## **Past editions of the Forum**

The first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD was held in Rome on 11-12 February 2013. It was followed by a second global meeting on 12-13 February 2015 under the theme "Food systems and sustainable livelihoods".

Through the two previous global meetings, indigenous peoples' representatives called on IFAD to support initiatives to recognize and protect their rights; value their knowledge; strengthen their participation throughout IFAD's project cycles; and ensure that free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is sought in the context of IFAD-funded projects. During the 2015 global meeting, IFAD was specifically

recommended to design targeted initiatives with and for indigenous women and youth in order to promote traditional economies and marketing.

### **The theme of the third global meeting**

The Steering Committee of the Forum decided that economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth, should be the overall theme for the third global meeting.

Although in many countries indigenous peoples actively participate in economic development, the impact on improving their well-being is usually negligible. Their economic systems are under pressure to conform to a globally defined agenda and they continue to face challenges and violations of their social and economic rights, preventing them from accessing and benefiting from development processes and economic opportunities.

Access to markets is a key issue. Indigenous peoples are still fighting to own, manage and develop their traditional lands, territories and resources. This is particularly true for women and youth.

Good examples of development initiatives aimed at increasing indigenous peoples' engagement in economic activities have built on traditional knowledge, practices and livelihoods as a path towards success. Acknowledgement of indigenous peoples' contribution to sustainable development and appreciation for the values embodied in indigenous peoples' traditional production practices have also grown. This awareness provides further potential for the empowerment of indigenous peoples.

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples is key to IFAD's work and has been pursued both through its country programmes and projects and its support to specific initiatives, such as the partnership with Slow Food in creating Presidia, which gathers together small-scale food producers to join forces and agree on common ways to produce and promote their products. Presidia pursues economic, environmental and socio-cultural sustainability aimed at strengthening producers' organizational capacities, cultural identities and self-esteem. A number of projects financed through the IPAF have demonstrated how economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth can build on their cultural assets.



Opening session of the Forum  
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# THE PREPARATION OF THE 2017 GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FORUM: THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

In late 2016, regional consultation workshops in preparation for the Indigenous Peoples' Forum were held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, attended by 97 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions.

During the workshops, participants assessed the progress of implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and reviewed the status of implementation of the recommendations of the second global meeting and the regional action plans agreed upon with IFAD regional divisions in 2015.

Participants further had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences on good practices on indigenous peoples' economic empowerment that build on their distinctive cultures, traditional knowledge and natural resources. They further identified challenges and opportunities for indigenous peoples to pursue economic empowerment, as well as key elements to enhance IFAD's strategies and support at the regional level.

Based on the discussions, the regional workshops provided suggestions and action-oriented recommendations on economic empowerment of indigenous peoples with a focus on women and youth, which framed the agenda and nurtured the discussions at the global meeting in Rome.

## Box 1. The regional preparatory workshops

**Africa**, Brazzaville, Congo, 5-7 December 2016, organized by the *Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains au Congo (ODDHC)* and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).

**Asia**, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 22-26 November 2016, organized by the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP), the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO), IWGIA and the Organization to Promote Kui Culture (OPKC).

**Latin America and the Caribbean**, San Salvador, El Salvador, 22-27 November 2016, organized by *Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI)*, *Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño (CCNIS)*, *Consejo Indígena de Centro América (CICA)*, *Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (FILAC)* and IWGIA.

**Pacific**, Pacific Harbour, Fiji, 21-22 November 2016, organized by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) and IWGIA.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE THIRD GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FORUM

The third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum took place on 10 and 13 February 2017 in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the IFAD Governing Council.

The meeting brought together 43 indigenous peoples' representatives of 33 different indigenous peoples from 32 countries<sup>1</sup> in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean to exchange views on the evolution of the partnership with IFAD. This edition of the Forum saw a large presence of indigenous women (61 per cent) and an increased participation of indigenous youth (21 per cent). With 2017 marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Forum also provided an opportunity to highlight IFAD's evolution in its engagement with indigenous peoples during the past decade within the framework of UNDRIP's implementation and brainstorm on future opportunities to improve IFAD's work within the 2030 Development Agenda.

### Opening of the Forum

The Forum began with an indigenous ceremony conducted by the spiritual guide Ms Virginia Ajxup Pelicó, Mayan k'iche' of the Mayan indigenous people of Guatemala.



The President of IFAD Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze at the opening of the Forum during the indigenous ceremony

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<sup>1</sup> The list of participants is available at: <https://www.ifad.org/documents/36783902/7af4ef92-1280-42a3-b89d-77f56cc02c86>.

The Forum was officially opened by the outgoing IFAD **President, Kanayo F. Nwanze**, who highlighted its greatest achievements and reflected on the stones still left unturned.

The President of IFAD stated that the Forum's greatest accomplishment has been to "push IFAD into uncharted territory", helping it to become a role model for how institutions can build relationships with indigenous peoples based on inclusive and horizontal partnerships, in line with UNDRIP's article on self-determined development.

Nonetheless, he recognized that there is need to do "more and better", not only by designing good strategies together through more inclusive processes, but by ensuring successful results on the ground.

Mr Nwanze declared that as IFAD moves forward on the 2030 Agenda, and with its own replenishment, there is the need to "change the narrative around indigenous peoples. When it comes to environmental or social sustainability, indigenous peoples are in the forefront of change. Governments should be proud to have this treasured resource in their countries. They should recognize indigenous cultures as key to driving overall development and sustainability. I do believe that IFAD can play a role in bringing all this about."

In her keynote address, **Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, highlighted IFAD's significant achievements in ensuring the implementation of UNDRIP, including the adoption of the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the establishment of the Forum as a mechanism for sustained dialogue and the establishment of the IPAF. She further stated that this was made possible thanks to three main factors, including: (i) the strength of the indigenous peoples' movements; (ii) IFAD's efforts to consciously involve indigenous peoples' representatives to actively participate in shaping the work of IFAD on indigenous peoples; and (iii) the presence of individuals within IFAD who are committed to strengthen the partnership.

She emphasized that the overall aim of the partnership with IFAD is to ensure that indigenous peoples will be able to pursue their self-determined development, continue to live in and sustainably use their lands, territories and resources, continue practicing and further developing their cultural heritage, values, traditional knowledge and governance, as well as justice systems, and that all these will be transmitted to the next generations.

Interventions from the members of the Steering Committee further emphasized the results achieved in the partnership and expressed deep appreciation of IFAD's commitment and support in the past years. In particular, **Mr Joseph Ole Simel (Kenya)** underlined the added value of the partnership with IFAD based on the capacity of the organization to create spaces and facilitate processes in which indigenous peoples play a leading role. He affirmed this is a legacy the President of IFAD should be proud of and called on IFAD to go beyond what was started under Nwanze's presidency. Despite the achievements,



Ms Joan Carling (Philippines) intervenes at the Forum opening session



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Ms Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe (Bolivia) said indigenous peoples, and especially women and youth, are still confronted by key issues, including access to and exploitation of land, territories and resources, forced displacement and loss of traditional knowledge. She invited IFAD to continue engaging with indigenous peoples, particularly through supporting their life plans and through instruments such as IPAF. Mr Ulaiasi Baya (Fiji Islands) shared an overview of the outcomes of the regional consultation processes and stressed the need to better measure results in terms of IFAD engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground. Finally, while echoing appreciation of IFAD's work, Ms Joan Carling (Philippines), looked at the future and highlighted the opportunities offered by key developments in the global context to enhance the partnership between indigenous peoples and IFAD. In particular, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change offer important opportunities to engage in developing projects and programmes with clear targets and indicators for sustainable development of indigenous peoples and to contribute to strengthen resilience and adaptation capacities of indigenous peoples, using their traditional knowledge.

### **Evolution of IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples**

As is the practice of the global meetings of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, IFAD presented the findings of the *Progress in Partnership* report that analyses the evolution of the partnership in the previous biennium (2015-2017) and takes stock of IFAD's different experiences in supporting indigenous peoples, investigating the modalities of the ongoing collaboration and highlighting successful stories and achievements.

In particular, what emerged from the report is an increase in funding, with 79 ongoing projects supporting indigenous peoples in some 40 countries, for a total amount of about US\$1 billion, representing one third of IFAD-funded projects. In addition, IPAF is currently financing 25 projects for a total of US\$1.05 million, supporting the self-determined development of indigenous peoples. These projects, financed through the IPAF, are designed, managed and implemented by indigenous peoples' organizations themselves.

The report further highlighted that out of the 16 country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) approved in the biennium, ten (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Paraguay and Tanzania) specifically integrate indigenous and tribal peoples' and ethnic minorities' issues, thus ensuring that IFAD's actions and interventions at country level address their concerns, priorities and needs.

Similarly, the quality of the design of IFAD-funded projects improved during the past biennium, particularly thanks to the participation in project-design teams of indigenous experts or consultants with expertise in indigenous peoples.

IFAD further reported that since the approval of IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) in December 2014, the development



**Ms Mirna Cunningham, member of the Steering Committee of the Forum, presents the findings from the study on indigenous peoples and the private sector.**

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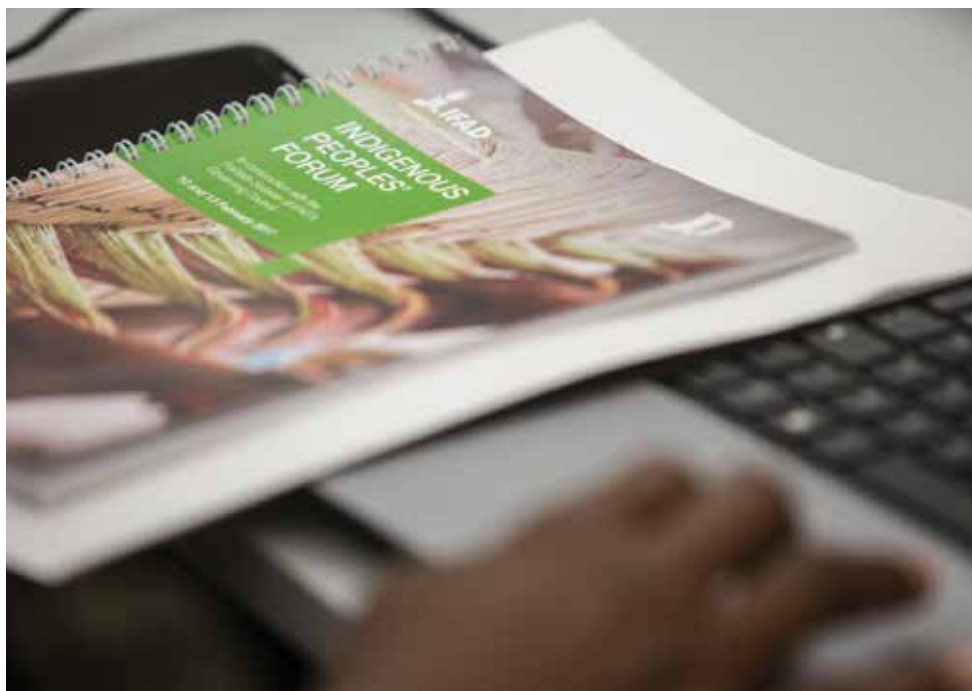
and adoption of FPIC implementation plans is becoming systematic within project design. This is supported by practical guiding tools that have been developed, such as IFAD's How To Do Note '*Seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent*' and training provided to IFAD staff.

Other key advancements relate to: (i) IFAD's role in facilitating policy engagement at the national level in six countries (see below); (ii) the ongoing revision of core IFAD indicators, with the inclusion of data disaggregation for indigenous peoples and specific indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples; (iii) IFAD advocacy actions and partnership-building at the international level (e.g. within the context of the sessions of the UNPFII and the meetings of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues); and (iv) IFAD efforts in fostering knowledge generation and sharing of good practices.

### **Sharing of experiences at country level**

The Forum also provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences on key issues and processes both relating to the theme of the Forum, economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth, and to policy engagement. This peer-learning and capacity-building dimension was considered by participants as a key peculiarity of the Forum to be maintained and further expanded.

Ms Mirna Cunningham, member of the Steering Committee of the Forum and President of the Center for Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development (CADPI), presented the main findings of the study "*Indigenous Peoples and the Private Sector: Collaboration Experiences*", developed by CADPI in partnership with IFAD.



Opening session  
of the Forum

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With the analysis of seven successful experiences of collaboration, the scoping study seeks to understand the opportunities for indigenous peoples to strengthen their economic development by engaging on an equal basis with the private sector. The key finding of the study is that indigenous peoples can and are willing to successfully engage with the private sector to better link to markets when some conditions are met. These include: (i) the involvement of international cooperation actors in the processes to play a facilitating and regulatory role; (ii) initial credit being made available to support indigenous peoples' initiatives; (iii) the recognition of the value of traditional knowledge by private-sector agents; (iv) the presence of a capacity-building component in the supported initiatives; and (v) respect for the rights, culture, identity and governance mechanisms of indigenous peoples.

The experience of the Italian National Consumers' Cooperative Association in working with the Chico Mendes fair trade cooperative further provided a concrete example of a successful partnership in support of indigenous peoples producers. Other actors, such as Slow Food and Fair Trade, were also able to briefly share their approaches and projects in support of the economic empowerment of indigenous peoples.

The Forum also enabled participants to learn about successful policy engagement at country level by sharing the experiences of six cases (Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Myanmar, Nepal, Paraguay and Tanzania). The experience of El Salvador was presented by **Mr Jorge Alberto Jiménez, General Director, Bureau for Comprehensive Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Mr Jesús Amadeo Martínez Guzmán, Senior Advisor of the Consejo Indígena de Centro America (CICA)**, who described the main steps leading to the adoption of the very first national action plan on indigenous peoples following the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

According to speakers, the key factors that determined the success of policy engagement processes in the six countries include: (i) the leading role of indigenous peoples in the process and the large consultation undertaken with indigenous organizations and communities; (ii) the capacity of the governments to articulate and involve government institutions, the legislative and judiciary branches; (iii) the availability of resources, which they highlighted was an unprecedented and unique initiative by IFAD, with the support of the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and (iv) the involvement, support and active participation of other organizations and UN institutions (e.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the *Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe* (FILAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN resident coordinators).

Ms Antonella Cordone (IFAD) shares the progress in the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.



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The main challenge for the future will be to ensure national action plans and/or policies are implemented and that a system of monitoring and evaluation is set up. For this to be possible, the availability of financial support as well as the continued engagement of UN agencies and other organizations were considered key.

### **Regional action plans**

Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions from the different regions and staff of IFAD's regional divisions jointly discussed and agreed upon regional action plans for the biennium 2017-2019, as outlined below.

#### **Box 2a. Regional action plans 2017-2019**

##### **Asia and the Pacific**

- i) In country programmes, adopt an integrated and holistic approach to promoting the economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth, with specific indicators and monitoring tools.
- ii) Support capacity-building and professional, vocational and technical training of women and youth to promote indigenous farming and non-farming systems (including community-managed ecotourism and fisheries) as well as improve climate-resilient agricultural and rural technologies.
- iii) Support developing niche markets and pro-poor value chains, strengthen community-based organizations and establish inclusive and innovative private-public partnerships (PPPs) that value the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples and engage with them as equal partners.
- iv) Identify, document, share and scale up interventions, innovative approaches and best practices benefiting indigenous peoples, including those promoting intergenerational transfer of knowledge, economic models based on traditional systems, collective marketing, the use of remittances, management of common property resources and land titling for indigenous peoples, including women and youth.
- v) Support and promote the use of country-specific appropriate tools and economic services (e.g. microfinance and agricultural extension) that are women and youth friendly, including information and communications technologies (ICTs).
- vi) Under the IFAD operating model, promote programme-based mechanisms to ensure participation of indigenous peoples in project design and implementation and in in-country policy engagement, to directly support indigenous peoples' organizations, including technically and financially and to continue to use the IPAF.
- vii) In defining targeting strategies in IFAD programmes, recognize that women and youth are not homogenous groups and identify different women and youth categories and specific modalities to engage them.
- viii) In programme and corporate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, develop and include indicators that not only focus on the economic dimension, but also on social, cultural and institutional aspects, including the identity and well-being of indigenous peoples.
- ix) Support networking and horizontal knowledge exchange and sharing among indigenous peoples' groups, within countries and regions, such as in business and social enterprise development and policy advocacy.

IFAD staff will include countries and targets in the implementation of this action plan.

## Box 2b. Regional action plans 2017-2019

### Africa

- i) New COSOPs in African countries should consider the challenges and opportunities for economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, including pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities, with special attention given to women and young people.
- ii) COSOPs should be designed in line with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and support full and effective participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' communities in framing development strategies.
- iii) Ongoing projects should identify opportunities to empower indigenous peoples' communities, with special attention to women and youth.
- iv) Identify, promote, document, share and scale up interventions, innovations, case studies and best practices, including in intergenerational transfer of knowledge, economic models based on traditional systems, collective marketing, the use of remittances, management of common property resources, and land titling for indigenous peoples including women and youth.
- v) Using the model of engagement followed by IFAD in Tanzania, based on the SDG principle "leave no one behind", look for other opportunities where national platforms of dialogues can be formed at the country level to advance the agenda of indigenous peoples.
- vi) Make fostering better land governance a priority issue for IFAD country programmes in the region and show commitment to proactively engage through lending and non-lending initiatives which can improve land/resource tenure of indigenous communities.
- vii) Create linkages between IPAF-financed projects and IFAD country programmes and actively engage Country Programme Managers and Officers in advising on the selection of new IPAF projects that can serve as models of self-driven development in IFAD-funded projects.
- viii) Continue policy engagement in Tanzania and explore opportunities in other countries where it is feasible to support policy engagement and dialogue between indigenous peoples, governments and UN country teams as part of the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014). Engage the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in policy engagements at the country level.

IFAD staff will include countries and targets in the implementation of this action plan.

## Box 2c. Regional action plans 2017-2019

### Latin America and the Caribbean

- i) **Country strategy.** Ensure that the preparation and evaluation (midterm and upon completion) of country strategy documents, such as COSOPs and strategic country notes, maximize systematic participation by the representatives and institutions of indigenous peoples.
- ii) **Project design and implementation.** Strengthen the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples. Increase the scope of consultations beyond municipalities in the areas where IFAD is formulating and supervising projects and programmes to include the institutions and representatives of indigenous peoples. Establish specific mechanisms to ensure high levels of participation by indigenous women and young people.
- iii) Recognizing the importance of diversity, use the instruments available to IFAD – strategy documents, policy dialogue and others – to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities and other historically excluded population segments in government projects and exchanges on best practices in the region.
- iv) Promote activities relating to indigenous community economies of women and youth in IFAD-funded projects to work towards an approach to commercialization that builds on the community's values and culture, including fair trade, real product value, sales with no intermediaries, and others.
- v) Promote synergies between the projects and the regular programmes financed by IFAD and implemented by governments and IPAF projects.
- vi) **Public policy dialogue.** Guarantee participation by indigenous leaders in round tables held as part of country programme evaluations.
- vii) Consolidate capacities for dialogue and participation by organizations taking part in the Forum to define and implement national action plans by strengthening partnerships and relationships between indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other development cooperation agencies. Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana and Honduras are invited to build national plans with indigenous organizations.
- viii) **Environment and climate change.** Apply IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) in respect of free, prior and informed consent.
- ix) Promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples in cofinanced operations, such as those with the Green Climate Fund, and incentivize the creation of new projects specifically designed for indigenous peoples.
- x) **Knowledge management.** Provide indigenous peoples, focusing particularly on indigenous youth and women, with opportunities for learning and cooperation through knowledge dissemination and exchanges of practices and projects in the region.
- xi) **Capacity-building.** Promote capacity-building, vocational and technical training for women and youth to promote indigenous agricultural and non-agricultural livelihood systems (including community-managed ecotourism) and improve rural farming technologies that are climate-change resilient.

xii) Improve IFAD's capacity to work directly with indigenous peoples and their organizations, giving consideration to innovative partnerships that enable these institutions to act as partners of programmes and projects. Facilitate internships within IFAD for indigenous peoples' representatives to improve indigenous peoples' understanding and knowledge of how the organization operates.

xiii) **Monitoring and evaluation.** Recognizing the need to have cultural indicators, statistics and data on full and effective participation disaggregated by indigenous peoples within IFAD's M&E systems, perform documentation and analysis activities. Support the countries in generating relevant statistics, particularly in Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico.

xiv) Include progress made on compliance with indigenous peoples' indicators in the post-2015 agenda, the UN System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in strategy documents and IFAD's evaluations.

The Latin America and Caribbean Division at IFAD will include countries and indicators/targets in the implementation of this action plan.

### **General recommendations**

1. Invite IFAD to facilitate the preparation of voluntary country reviews by Member States, with the participation of indigenous peoples, particularly the implementation of Sustainable Development Objective 2 (zero hunger).
2. Invite IFAD's Member States to include a section on indigenous peoples in the presentation of their voluntary reports to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
3. Considering that the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) is an intergovernmental organization affiliated with the United Nations system and member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, invite IFAD to engage in a dialogue with FILAC on its country strategies within the framework of the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples resulting from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014 and to provide joint support for progress thereon.





Dalí Silvia Angel, *Red de Jovenes Indígenas* (Mexico) intervenes at the closing session of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

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# SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS

The Synthesis of Deliberations was adopted at the 2017 global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, based on the discussions and contributions from the debates.

The Synthesis was read and discussed during the last plenary session of the Forum and in the presence of indigenous peoples' delegates, IFAD management and representatives of IFAD Member States – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the European Union, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Malawi, Morocco, Netherlands, Switzerland and Venezuela.

## Box 3. Synthesis of Deliberations of the 2017 Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

### Preamble

We, indigenous peoples of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, acknowledge progress in the implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the strengthening of partnerships between indigenous peoples and IFAD.

The increased participation of indigenous peoples in IFAD operations has resulted in improved targeting and enhanced quality in the design of IFAD's country strategies and a number of projects and their implementation.

We acknowledge IFAD's leading role in finding avenues for indigenous peoples to promote our concept of self-determined development. In particular, we highly appreciate the strong commitment of the outgoing IFAD President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, and we call upon the new leadership to enhance IFAD's development effectiveness with indigenous peoples within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In line with this, we put forward the following recommendations and commitments:

### Recommendations to IFAD

- Develop a holistic approach to supporting indigenous peoples' economic empowerment, based on the respect and protection of their collective land and resource tenure rights and by ensuring the interlink between the social, organizational, cultural and spiritual dimensions that characterize indigenous peoples' livelihoods and ways of life – taking into account the specific needs and priorities of women and youth;
- Under the IFAD operating model, promote programme-based mechanisms to ensure the systematic participation of indigenous peoples in project design and implementation and in in-country policy engagement and ensure those mechanisms support consultation with and participation of indigenous women and youth, in line with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples;
- Support capacity-building according to the specific needs and priorities of indigenous peoples, including women and youth, at the country level and facilitate the exchange of best practices – including those emerging from projects funded by the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility – within and between countries and regions;

- Consider the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility as a strategic partner under the IFAD grant policy. Encourage governments and donors to contribute to the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility as an instrument to further strengthen the implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples;
- Establish partnerships with indigenous peoples to mobilize resources through the Green Climate Fund that will support community resilience and adaptation initiatives, using indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and innovations;
- Support direct access to markets for indigenous peoples' products – including from women and youth. Facilitate linkages to innovative and inclusive collaborations in which indigenous peoples are equal partners, including private-public partnerships that value the natural and cultural landscapes of indigenous peoples;
- In monitoring systems, ensure data disaggregation for indigenous peoples and include indicators on social, economic, cultural and institutional aspects, including the identity and well-being of indigenous peoples, in line with IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025, that shall contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for indigenous peoples;
- We finally call upon IFAD to sustain and continue strengthening the instruments set forth for implementation of the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, that is: the dedicated office at IFAD in charge of indigenous peoples and tribal issues; the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD and its regional and country processes; the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility; and the country.

### **Recommendations to governments**

- Support the participation of indigenous women and youth in all development processes upholding the rights of indigenous peoples and guarantee the inclusion of their needs and priorities in development plans and initiatives that concern them, along with the allocation of sufficient resources;
- Support indigenous peoples to map or otherwise secure their territories and facilitate processes that ensure land tenure security for all the ecosystems of indigenous peoples, including pastoralists, hunter-gatherers and other marginalized communities;
- Ensure the recognition and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation, monitoring and review of national plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, with culturally relevant indicators and data disaggregation for indigenous peoples, to achieve the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind;
- Generate financial resources, with assistance from IFAD as needed, to support relevant government institutions with mandates on indigenous people issues in order for them to implement policies and programmes for the empowerment of indigenous peoples.

### **As indigenous peoples, we commit to:**

- Build and strengthen our indigenous peoples' networks to stand as one voice and meaningfully engage with governments, development partners and other organizations at all levels to support the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights, including our self-determined development;
- Actively engage in policy dialogue, raise awareness and continue advocating for the development and implementation of policies and programmes for the empowerment of indigenous peoples – including women and youth – at all levels.

## IFAD's management response

In preliminary remarks, **Mr Michel Mordasini, Vice-President of IFAD**, welcomed the concise and substantive Synthesis of Deliberations and emphasized that the recommendations to IFAD provide concrete directions and steps for sustaining and strengthening the partnership.

Mr Mordasini agreed on the recommendations for advancing further the participation of indigenous peoples in project design and implementation and in in-country policy engagement. Also, he confirmed that IFAD will continue to work as an honest broker to move policy dialogue forward.

The Vice-President of IFAD stated that IFAD is ready to engage more actively with indigenous peoples to facilitate better access to markets and to establish innovative and inclusive collaboration with the private sector.

He further stated that, although it will be difficult to recognize IPAF as a strategic partner under the IFAD Grant Policy – since IPAF is not an established legal entity – IFAD will continue to strengthen and financially support the Facility. Within this context, the full support of indigenous peoples' organizations in leveraging additional resources from other donors will be key.

## Interventions from the floor

Government representatives, IFAD staff and indigenous leaders expressed an appreciation of the work of the Forum and its deliberations.

In particular, **Mr Antonio Ricarte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil**, emphasized the need for indigenous peoples to get together with government actors to make proposals for financing and encouraged women to get organized to seek support from the IPAF for their empowerment. **Mr Zoltán Kálmán, Hungary's Permanent Representative to Rome-based agencies**, stressed the importance of the Forum as a platform to hear the voice of indigenous peoples and urged the new President of IFAD to closely follow Forum recommendations in strict collaboration with indigenous communities.

In line with the above, **Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, in her role as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a mandate to look into how UN organizations are addressing indigenous peoples' rights and issues, stated that "IFAD stands out very strongly among all various existing UN agencies, programmes and funds".

**Ms Dalí Silvia Angel, Red de Jovenes Indígenas (Mexico)**, emphasized the key role that new indigenous generations will have to play in the defence of individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples and the transmission of traditional knowledge.

**Mr Michel Mordasini, Vice-President of IFAD, provides IFAD's management response to the Forum Statement**



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Mr Nwanze, President of IFAD, and Ms Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the inauguration of the Indigenous Peoples' Place

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## CLOSING OF THE FORUM

The Forum was closed by the Vice-President of IFAD, who stated that “the voice, knowledge and identity of the indigenous peoples must be properly recognized and listened to, if the international community is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.” Mr Mordasini reaffirmed the shared principle of free, prior and informed consent and added that “IFAD will continue to focus on empowering indigenous peoples and the most marginalized, promoting community-based and self-driven development approaches.” In fact, “for development to be effective, inclusive and sustainable, it must also be self-driven.”

## OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE FORUM

### **Indigenous Peoples’ Cultural Fair**

On 10 February, a fair was organized at IFAD to celebrate the cultures of indigenous peoples, featuring handicrafts from the home communities of Forum participants.

### **Inauguration of the Indigenous Peoples’ Place**

On 10 February, the Indigenous Peoples’ Place, the first IFAD room dedicated to indigenous peoples, was inaugurated by **Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD** and **Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

At the inauguration ceremony, Mr Nwanze stated that the creation of a permanent space for indigenous peoples within IFAD is a tangible commitment to the evolving partnership. In fact, “IFAD bought the furniture, while our indigenous partners donated the beautiful artefacts all around.”

He further declared that, as one of his last gestures as President, he was “proud to officially inaugurate the Indigenous Peoples’ Place”, wishing it will serve as a space for reflection and consultation and that it will “remind IFAD of the continued need to build bridges of trust” with indigenous peoples.

On behalf of indigenous peoples, **Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** thanked IFAD and its President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, for this unique initiative. According to Ms Tauli-Corpuz this “is a concrete way of honouring and respecting our rich cultures and identities”. She further expressed her hope that this, together with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the Forum and the IPAF will all result in solidifying further the partnership and “help realize our dreams of having our rights fully protected and respected and our self-determined development achieved”.

## Indigenous Peoples' Forum reception

On 13 February, the Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic to the FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP), the Ministry of Agro-Industry of Argentina – Unit for Rural Change (UCAR), and Slow Food hosted a reception for Forum participants. Wine and food from indigenous peoples' communities, Slow Food and IFAD-supported projects in Argentina were served.

Ms Ikal Lilian Ang'elei (Kenya) reads the Synthesis of Deliberations of the Forum at the Governing Council



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## Reading of the Synthesis of Deliberation to the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council

On 14 February, the Synthesis of Deliberations was delivered to the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the IFAD Governing Council by Ms Ikal Lilian Ang'elei, Friends of Lake Turkana (Kenya).

## Indigenous peoples' panel at the Governing Council

A panel – 'A decade of IFAD's partnership with indigenous peoples. Approaching the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' – was organized at the Governing Council on 15 February. The panel provided a timely opportunity for discussion of the evolution of IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples during the past 10 years and within the context of the international processes and to debate on future opportunities.

Indigenous panellists<sup>2</sup> discussed the results achieved in implementing the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and highlighted best practices and lessons learned in the partnership with IFAD, particularly in terms of the design of

IFAD-funded strategies and projects, and of policy dialogue. Also, they emphasized the relevance of the IPAF, with the accent on how it contributed to the economic empowerment of indigenous peoples (particularly women and youth) by building on indigenous peoples' communities' self-driven development. Challenges, opportunities and solutions to be advanced for the future to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025 were also shared.

The indigenous peoples' panel at the Governing Council. From left: Mr Jorge Alberto Jiménez, Ms Maria Teresa Zapeta Mendoza, Mr Elifuraha Laltaika, Ms Joan Carling and Ms Mirna Cunningham



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<sup>2</sup> The panel was moderated by Ms Mirna Cunningham and consisted of the following participants: Ms Joan Carling, indigenous activist from the Cordillera (Philippines) working on indigenous issues at all levels for more than 20 years, appointed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as an indigenous expert of UNPFII (2014-2016); Mr Elifuraha Laltaika, attorney and Executive Director of the Association for Law and Advocacy for Pastoralists (ALAPA) and recently nominated member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII); Ms Maria Teresa Zapeta Mendoza, indigenous leader from Guatemala and programme manager of the International Indigenous Women Forum (IIMI); Mr Jorge Alberto Jiménez, General Director from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador. Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, also participated in the panel as a special guest.



Pope Francis receives the indigenous delegation in a private audience

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### **Papal audience**

On 15 February, a delegation composed of 35 representatives from indigenous peoples was received in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall for a private audience with Pope Francis, joined by IFAD's Michel Mordasini, Vice-President, Henock Kifle, Associate Vice-President and Chief of Staff and Antonella Cordone, Senior Technical Specialist, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues. The private audience was facilitated by the Right Reverend Monseigneur Fernando Chica Arellano, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome.

In his brief address to indigenous representatives, Pope Francis discussed key aspects of the economic empowerment of indigenous peoples and called on governments to recognize that indigenous communities are a part of the population to be appreciated and consulted and whose full participation should be promoted at the local and national level.

The indigenous delegation brought gifts to illustrate the work of indigenous peoples around the world, including an alpaca coat from the Bolivian Andes, a blanket from the Igorot people in the Philippine Cordillera and a bible translated into Miskitu from Nicaragua.



#### **Box 4. Greetings from Pope Francis to indigenous peoples' representatives**

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you at the conclusion of the third Indigenous Peoples' Forum convened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which this year is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of its foundation.

Dear Friends,

You have come together to identify ways of giving greater economic empowerment to indigenous peoples. I believe that the central issue is how to reconcile the right to development, both social and cultural, with the protection of the particular characteristics of indigenous peoples and their territories.

This is especially clear when planning economic activities which may interfere with indigenous cultures and their ancestral relationship to the earth. In this regard, the right to prior and informed consent should always prevail, as foreseen in Article 32 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Only then is it possible to guarantee peaceful cooperation between governing authorities and indigenous peoples, overcoming confrontation and conflict.

A second aspect concerns the development of guidelines and projects which take into account indigenous identity, with particular attention to young people and women; not only considering them, but including them! For governments, this means recognizing that indigenous communities are a part of the population to be appreciated and consulted and whose full participation should be promoted at the local and national level. Marginalization cannot be permitted, nor labelling according to class, first class, second class... Integration with full participation.

IFAD can contribute effectively to this needed road map through its funding and expertise, keeping in mind that 'a technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress' (Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, 194).

And you, in your traditions, in your culture – because what you bring with you from your history is culture – you live progress (is there a word missing?) with particular care for mother earth. At this time, when humanity is sinning gravely by not caring for the earth, I urge you to continue giving witness to this and not to accept new forms of technology, even though they are valid and good, not to accept them when they destroy the earth, the environment, the ecological balance, and end up destroying the patrimony of knowledge.

I offer you heartfelt thanks for your presence and I ask the Almighty to bless your communities and to enlighten the work of all those responsible for governing IFAD.

Thank you very much.

## ANNEX

### Opening statement of the President of IFAD

Esteemed indigenous peoples' representatives, partners and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to welcome all of you to the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD.

I confess this year's Forum is bittersweet for me.

Of course, I am delighted to see such a strong turnout. And I know that today and Monday, you will help IFAD work better to support the economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, especially of women and youth.

But this is also my last Forum as president of IFAD. Over two days, you will be nourishing the seeds of greater cooperation and effectiveness. And I am keenly aware that I will not be at IFAD to witness the harvest.

So, with my remarks this morning, I would like to look back into the future – to highlight what I see as the Forum's greatest achievements and to reflect on the stones still left unturned.

First, I want to say that I could sum up my feelings about this Forum in two words: 'humbled' and 'proud'. Humbled that I was allowed to be part of this process and proud of the results we've achieved in six short years. I am proud of the indigenous leaders who have helped us translate lofty principles into concrete action. I am proud of IFAD staff and their commitment to building a more meaningful relationship with indigenous peoples. And I am proud of our directors and CPMs who are taking the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples seriously, ensuring it is reflected in loans, grants and policy engagement at the country level.

For me, the Forum's greatest accomplishment has been to push IFAD into uncharted territory. And, in so doing, it has helped IFAD become a role model for how institutions can build relationships with indigenous peoples.

As you all know, 2017 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. To mark this milestone, IFAD has begun reflecting on how we've helped the declaration move from principles into action.

Over the past decade, IFAD has been changing how it works with, and for, indigenous peoples. The sceptics no longer ask, 'who are indigenous peoples?' and 'why do we need a different approach?' There is now tremendous political will to transform the way we design COSOPs and projects.

Of course, these changes came about in large part due to this Forum. You've told us the best way to work with you is to listen. You've told us you want to play a more meaningful part in the process, as true partners. And so, we began to

enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in our funded projects, not just in implementation, but in design as well.

Consider that, over the past two years, out of 16 COSOPs approved by IFAD's Executive Board, 10 include specific focus on indigenous peoples. Forty-nine projects approved in the last two years included support to indigenous peoples and several had strategies tailored specifically to the needs of indigenous communities. Among these, four set particularly high standards: a project in Maranhão, Brazil, and COSOPs in Colombia, Guatemala and Tanzania. All four engaged indigenous peoples in the design phase. They had support from IFAD's technical teams – and in the case of Brazil, there was also support from FUNAI, the national indigenous organization. But there's no question that indigenous communities themselves drove the process. For me, this represents the beginning of a paradigm shift – one that this Forum deserves credit for catalysing.

It is no longer enough to ask for a 'yes' or 'no' to a ready-made package. We must co-create development right from the start. That means building inclusive and horizontal partnerships between IFAD, government and indigenous peoples.

This, I believe, goes to the heart of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' (UNDRIP's) article on self-determined development.

Ladies and gentlemen, this morning we will inaugurate a space within IFAD dedicated to indigenous peoples. I am proud to do this as one of my parting gestures. But I am also fully aware of the world outside our walls. Elsewhere, the voices of indigenous peoples often go unheard. Much worse, their lives can be at risk simply for speaking out.

According to Global Witness, at least 185 environmental activists were killed in 2015 – the highest annual death toll on record. It is estimated that about 40 per cent of those victims were indigenous peoples. Among them, we lost Berta Caceres, a leader of one of IFAD's partners in Honduras.

These are tragic losses – to families and friends, to communities and to the world that needs their wisdom.

At the same time, there are positive signs of greater respect for indigenous peoples. In a few days, a Papal audience will welcome 37 indigenous peoples' representatives from 25 countries, who represent some 30 indigenous peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen, IFAD inhabits only one small corner of the development world. But I do believe we have influenced the part of the world that is within our reach. And we were able to do so because of the partnership that we celebrate and renew today.

But we can still do more and do it better.

Designing good strategies together through more inclusive processes is a good beginning. Now we must ensure that we produce successful results on the ground.

As IFAD moves forward on the 2030 Agenda, and with its own replenishment, we must change the narrative around indigenous peoples.

When it comes to environmental or social sustainability, indigenous peoples are in the forefront of change. Governments should be proud to have this treasured resource in their countries. They should recognize indigenous cultures as key to driving overall development and sustainability.

I do believe that IFAD can play a role in bringing all this about. But this, I must leave to my successor... and to you.

What is left to me now is to thank all of you for enriching this organization, and me personally, with your deep knowledge, your passion and your resolve.

I wish you the best of success today, on Monday and in the years that follow.

Thank you.

## **Learn more on the Forum**

Agenda:

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/1fe9b5ff-a8ee-4ab6-8a01-61200c670981>

Final list of participants:

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/36783902/7af4ef92-1280-42a3-b89d-77f56cc02c86>

More information available at:

<https://www.ifad.org/ipforum>

## Partners

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO)

Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI)

Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño (CCNIS)

Consejo Indígena de Centro América (CICA)

Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (FILAC)

Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains au Congo (ODDHC)

Organization to Promote Kui Culture (OPKC)

Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON)



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